



Newsletter April 2007

Dear Colleagues:

March was a busy month, with nearly 300 teachers and students participating in the March 10 Saturday Seminar, a great Utah Geographic Alliance Spring Conference the following week, a Saturday Seminar in Washington County, the Geography Bee, and on and on. It doesn't seem like things are getting any slower in April, either, as you can see from this newsletter. Happy Spring! [Robert.austin@schools.utah.gov](mailto:Robert.austin@schools.utah.gov)

**Here's a quick table of contents:**

**Summer Classes Reminder!**

**BYU's Redd Center**

**Middle East Books**

**Elementary Core Draft**

**Geography Bee**

**GIS/GPS Link**

**Huntsman Seminar**

**C-Span Classroom Website**

**Law Day Resource**

**PBS Resources**

**Utah Museum of Fine Arts Resources**

**Utah Museum of Natural History Resources**

**History Teacher of the Year Award Deadline Approaching!**

**Geography of Utah Course**

**Latino History Lecture**

**Middle East Center's Two-Day June Seminar**

**Fourth Grade Mock Legislature**

**Utah League of Cities and Towns Civic Video**

**A night of Americana**

**5th-graders' Program Highlights Constitution**

**Grant to offer Hawthorne kids a global view**

**Clearfield students learn about WWII from vets themselves**

**Don't forget to register for our summer classes.** Our methods class offered on Saturdays needs a few more folks to make it viable! The opportunities include a trip to Topaz, a chance to visit with the Chief Justice of the Utah Supreme Court, lunch at the

Governor's mansion, and more. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade summer institutes are also available as part of our summer calendar:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/socialstudies/calendar/cal.html>

**BYU's Redd Center** will be conducting a workshop on June 27 & 28 from 8:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. on Utah's Peoples and Cultures with an emphasis on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Jessie Embry will be the presenter. The workshop will be held at the Box Elder School District Offices (960 S Main, Brigham City). This course is free to anyone who would like to participate. College credit (one hour) is available to participants.

Teachers from Box Elder District who attend will receive a stipend from the district.  
**More Info on the Redd Center's Programs:**



ReddCenterdflyer.pdf

**Nancy Livingston**, BYU professor extraordinaire and expert on literature for children and adolescents, writes:

*Here is a list of books about the Middle East that I found very interesting for students in the intermediate grades and above. All are recent books.*

*THE BREADWINNER (Deborah Ellis)*

*PARVANNAH'S JOURNEY (Deborah Ellis)*

*UNDER THE PERSIMMON TREE (Suzanne Fisher Staples)*

*TASTING THE SKY: A PALESTINIAN CHILDHOOD (Ibtsam Barakat)*

*DAWN AND DUSK: A KURDISH FAMILY TORN BY WAR (Alice Mead)*

*RICKSHA GIRL (Mitali Perkins)*

**Elementary core draft on-line this week!** Check for it on the social studies home page.

**Geography Bee:** Congratulations to Sheila Powell and her team for another great geography bee. It was a fantastic event.

**Cindy Clark, GIS/GPS expert**, writes: *Hi all, in case you missed the interview with Lucas Shaw on KSL Friday night, here is the link to the interview and the site. This could be a very cool thing for students to use to study the geography of Utah.*

<http://www.ksl.com/index.php?nid=148&sid=1024485>

<http://geology.utah.gov/surveynotes/geosights/index.htm>

**Hinckley Institute's Huntsman Seminar** in Constitutional Government has extended its application deadline. Please check it out and tell your colleagues about this great opportunity.

<http://www.hinckley.utah.edu/events/seminar/index.html>

### **C-SPAN Classroom Website**

The C-SPAN Classroom website, <http://www.c-span.org/>, offers free resources for teaching civics and government. There are video clips and pod-casts for classroom use. The clips are divided in to various categories and there is a searchable database if you are looking for a particular topic. There are also discussion questions and background information for each of the clips. To use the resources the teacher must register. Registration is free and allows teachers access to all of the databases, lesson plans, and their toll free "teaching with C-SPAN" hotline. The website offers information about current and historical events.

Law Day Resource:

**The Texas Young Lawyers Association** has created a free project, including a 38 minute film, curriculum guide and an interactive website for Law Day. I thought this might be a good resource for teachers any time, not just for Law Day. It's called "They Had a Dream Too": Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, narrated by NAACP Chairman Julian Bond, is designed to educate high school and middle school age students that young people have had a profound impact on history and to inspire them to positively change the world around them by making a difference in their own communities. The film documents the student who organized the school walk-outs that led to Brown vs. Board of Education, a sat-out on all-white buses before Rosa Parks, swam-in pools reserved for whites only, and helped integrate schools following Brown vs. Board of Education II. It also discusses the Voting Rights Act among other things. The film includes interviews with Dr. Terrence Roberts, one of the Little Rock Nine and Mary Beth Tinker, the child who was the center of the Supreme Court's decision in Tinker vs. DeMoines ISD.

To learn more about the materials and to order the materials, go to their website:

[www.theyhadadreamtoo.org](http://www.theyhadadreamtoo.org)

**PBS Teachers Newsletter**

**March 25 - 31, 2007**

Welcome to the PBS Teachers Newsletter, the weekly newsletter from PBS designed specifically for PreK-12 educators.

Program Times listed are for **KUED-7**. If you would like to customize your newsletter or change your local station, please visit

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/preferences>

[SOCIAL STUDIES](#)

[PBS BLOGS](#)

[PBS PARENTS](#)

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Wide Angle: Pilgrimage to Karbala**

On-Air & Online | Monday, March 26, 2007, 9:00 - 10:30 PM

Grade Range: 9-12

This film follows an intense journey into the heartlands of Shi'a Islam, revealing how two ancient crimes -- the murder of Mohammed's grandson and the disappearance of a six-year-old boy -- became the founding legends of Shi'a Islam and still shape events in the Middle East today. (CC, Stereo, 1 year)

Learn more about Shia Islam at the companion Web site.

<http://www.pbs.org/wideangle>

### **Frontline/World: News War: Stories from a Small Planet**

On-Air & Online | Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 9:00 - 10:00 PM

Grade Range: 9-12

The fourth part of this series looks at media around the globe --including the new Arab media and its role in the clash between the West and Islam and the "citizen journalists" of South Korea-- to reveal the international forces that influence journalism and politics in the United States.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/newswar/>

### **Independent Lens: Race to Execution**

On-Air & Online | Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 11:00 - 12:00 AM

Grade Range: 9-12

This film traces the fates of two Death Row inmates.

Log on to the companion Web site; learn about some of the most important cases on race and the death penalty in recent U.S. history.

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/racetoexecution>

### **NOW**

On-Air & Online | Friday, March 31, 2007, 8:30 - 9:00 pm

Grade Range: 9-12

Through documentary segments and interviews with original thinkers, "NOW" goes beyond the noisy churn of the news cycle and gives you the context to explore your relationship with the larger world. (CC, Stereo, 1 year)

Tell us what you think in our online weekly poll; should U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales resign?

<http://www.pbs.org/now>

### **Online NewsHour EXTRA: Analyzing Your School's Energy Consumption**

Lesson Plan

Grade Range: 6-8, 9-12

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/science/green\\_schools.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/science/green_schools.html)

### **Maine Public Broadcasting Network: Maine Experience**

Station

Grade Range: 6-8, 9-12

<http://www.mpbn.net/maineexperience>

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### **PBS BLOGS**

#### **Learning.now with Andy Carvin: Discussing Media Literacy with Dan Rather**

Online

Grade Range: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

[http://www.pbs.org/teachers/learning.now/2007/03/discussing\\_media\\_literacy\\_with\\_1.html](http://www.pbs.org/teachers/learning.now/2007/03/discussing_media_literacy_with_1.html)

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## **PBS PARENTS**

### **Explore with Miss Lori and Hooper**

Online

Grade Range: Preschool, K-2

Mornings on PBS KIDS are sprinkled with fun-filled learning adventures hosted by Miss Lori and her animated companion, Hooper.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/preschool>

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[Sign up to receive PBS Teachers Newsletter, the PBS weekly online newsletter for educators, via e-mail.](#)

**Utah Museum of Fine Arts Teacher Resource Center** The Center loans small works of art to educators for use in the classroom at no cost. The items available for borrowing consist of art objects representing cultures around the world and many of these items support the Social Studies core K-12. The works may be borrowed for up to two weeks. Borrowers are responsible for safe-keeping and prompt return of the art objects. A list of objects, posters, and videos is available on the UMFA website at <http://www.umfa.utah.edu/index.php?id=OTg>. To reserve an exhibit or to make an appointment to browse, call Education at 801-581-4405. Walk-ins or same-day requests cannot be accommodated.

**Utah Museum of Natural History** The staff at UMNH has prepared lessons and background information that can be used in conjunction with studying the Fremont Native Americans as part of core curriculums at several grade levels. <http://www.umnh.utah.edu/museum/Education/teacherResources.html>

Don't forget about the Gilder Lehrman History Teacher of the Year Award. The deadline for nominating outstanding elementary teachers is April 30. Send the materials to me here at the USOE:

<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/student8.html>

Cliff Craig, geography professor extraordinaire, writes: *Attached please find a copy of our flyer announcing the Summer 2007 Geography of Utah to be held July 9-13, 2007 on*

*the USU Campus and throughout northern and central Utah conducting fieldtrips and doing geographic field work.*



Utah 2007-Workshop  
Flyer.pdf

Nuestra America: Latino History as United States History  
The 29th Annual O. Meredith Wilson Lecture in History is April 18, 2007 4:00 p.m.  
University of Utah, Utah Museum of Fine Arts Auditorium. [www.history.utah.edu](http://www.history.utah.edu)

**Middle East Outreach Center's** Annual Middle East Summer Inservice will focus on Israel, Iran, and Iraq. Register!



2007SumInserviceRe  
gis.pdf

Fourth Grade Mock Legislature  
Lobby, vote and recess in mock legislature  
Fourth-graders learn the lawmaking ropes and flex their political muscles

WEST BOUNTIFUL - The Legislature wrapped up its 2007 session at 10:15 a.m. Monday - the West Bountiful Elementary fourth-grade mock legislature, that is.

In a mere 45 minutes (as opposed to 45 days), the fourth-graders increased teacher pay, lowered taxes on gasoline, increased jail time for driving under the influence, levied a tax on sugary food, mandated seat-belt use and prohibited smoking in cars when children are passengers.

In all, the budding politicians introduced 35 bills, passed six, vetoed three, then overrode a veto.

How's that for efficiency?

[http://www.sltrib.com/education/ci\\_5313095](http://www.sltrib.com/education/ci_5313095)

**Brian Hall of Utah League of Cities and Towns writes:** *Along the lines of civic education, we put together a rather humorous (or maybe depressing from your perspective) video in the last few months that helped us prove the point that most Utahns know little of how their governmental process works, nor do they know much about those elected to office. We showed it to the legislature last month. We use this to support our goals to help educate Utahns about how local government works.*

Here's the link to the video:

<http://www.chronicleofideas.blogspot.com/>

**A night of Americana**

Davis School District's celebration of history is capped off by essay winners

Rosa Parks, Benjamin Franklin and hundreds of community members gathered at Northridge High School for the Davis School District's "Davis Reads American History Celebration." Of course Parks and Franklin were actually volunteers dressed up for the occasion, along with dozens of other historical figures portrayed in a so-called "wax museum" by local elementary students.

Norma Jean Remington, social studies-curriculum specialist K-12 for the Davis School District, said the celebration was an attempt to get students and parents to read together.

[http://www.sltrib.com/closeup/ci\\_5282456](http://www.sltrib.com/closeup/ci_5282456)

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,660196567,00.html>

### **5th-graders' program highlights Constitution**

Jorge Orozco, 11, has gained a new level of respect for George Washington.

After playing Washington in a patriotic program at his school, Orozco said he realized the important role the first president played in founding our country.

"He left his riches to serve his country," he said. "Without the Constitution and the great men (who wrote it), we wouldn't be where we are today."

Orozco and other fifth-grade students at Reading Elementary, 360 W. 2025 North, Centerville, have spent the past few weeks preparing for their musical patriotic program "Shhh - We're Writing the Constitution," which they performed for the school Feb. 16.

The program is designed to teach students about the origins of the Constitution and all the debate and compromises that went into its creation. Fifth-grade teachers Ann Whitby, Linda Porter and Wendee

Lawson teamed up to prepare the production, which came together in about two weeks.

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,660196566,00.html>

### **Grant to offer Hawthorne kids a global view \$5,151 to help school buy maps, globes, textbooks**

Leslie Edwards has a goal to help her third-grade students think more globally.

Thanks to a grant from the 100 percent For Kids Credit Union Education Foundation, she is closer to reaching her goal.

The foundation awarded Hawthorne Elementary, 1675 S. 600 East, the school where Edwards teaches, a \$5,151 grant Feb. 13 to improve the school's geography-based learning with new maps, globes and

textbooks. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,660196778,00.html>

### **Clearfield students learn about WWII from vets themselves By Lynze Wardle**

Standard-Examiner Davis Bureau

<http://www.standard.net/live/news/98408/>



CLEARFIELD -- Students at Clearfield High School put away their history books Thursday in favor of something a little more interactive -- face-to-face interviews with veterans and civilians who lived through World War II. Student teacher Christine Jacobsen said she wanted to help her U.S. history class understand that real people helped shape the events they are reading about.

"There's a big difference with being able to sit and talk as opposed to reading information out of a book," she said. Jacobsen recruited neighbors, friends and members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars to speak with the students. The teens sat around large tables in the school's library with the veterans and civilians. Occasionally the students asked questions, but more often they sat quietly while the guests let their stories unfold. Navy veteran Mel Thompson told students how he listened to "Tokyo Rose" radio broadcasts with fellow soldiers while serving in the South Pacific. The pro-Japan broadcaster had an uncanny ability to predict where U.S. ships were headed, he said. "Before we could even open our orders, she would tell us where we were going," he said.

Thompson said the activity helps students learn about history, and gives veterans a rare chance to relive their youth. "It is good for us to come and reminisce," he said. "We're the 'forgotten tribe,' so to speak, and we don't get a chance to tell these stories often."

Edna McEntire was a newlywed in the early 1940s when her husband went into the military. McEntire said she and her husband were married as soon as he came home from his LDS mission. He was immediately drafted, she said, and left for military training a month after returning from his church service. The couple would live apart for the next 31/2 years. During that time, sugar and gasoline were rationed, McEntire said, and each person received government-issued coupons for two pairs of shoes a year.

"If you wore them out in the meantime, that was just too bad -- unless you could talk somebody else out of their's," she said. Students will complete the assignment by writing about what they've learned. Jacobsen then plans to compile the best papers into a book to give to the participating veterans. Trent Billmire, 16, said he liked the activity because he was able to learn how differently people viewed the war.

Katie Cotton, 17, said she was a little nervous that she might offend or anger the guests by asking them the wrong questions, but said her experience was a pleasant one. "They were awesome to talk to," she said.

Norman Nelson, state commander of the Utah VFW, said that sharing their experiences serves as therapy for the veterans, and helps them put their feelings about the war into perspective. "These guys need this as much as the kids do," he said.